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EXAMINER

HUYNH, KIM T

| ART UNIT | PAPER NUMBER |
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2112

DATE MAILED: 10/04/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/618,365

Applicant(s)

NGUYEN ET AL.

Examiner

Kim T. Huynh

Art Unit

2112

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 19 July 2004.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1--13, 29-30, 32-50 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-13, 29-30, 32-50 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 08 July 2000 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

1. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

2. Claims 1-7, 10-13, 29-30, 32-50 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Acres et al. (US Patent 5,741,183) in view of Stufflebeam (US Patent 6,295,566)

As per claim 1, Acres discloses a communication interface for a gaming machine comprising:

(a) a main communication board having

- at least one primary power (col.10, lines 15-29, wherein main board enclosed by gaming machine board which is system board thereby power supply to machine board so as main board) connection adapted to supply power to the main communication board and at least one other component connected to the main communication board, (col.16, lines 56-65, wherein expansion connector (fig.9, 206) allows the DCN controller to communicate with expansion device)
- at least one secondary power connection adapted to supply power to at least one other component connected to the main communication board, wherein said at least one secondary power connection is adapted to have power supplied therethrough switched off while power is maintained

through said at least one primary power connection, (col.16, line 56-col.17, line 15)

- a communication connection configured to communicate with a master gaming controller of the gaming machine, and (col.9, lines 55-67), wherein converter 66 converts inputs to output which is transmitted to controller via conductor 46)
- at least one standard receptor slot for securing at least one other component to the main communication board, (col.16, lines 56-65, wherein connector 206 connects to expansion device) ; and (col.11, lines 17-67)

(b) a daughter board plugged into said standard receptor slot of the main communication board and configured to receive power from the main communication board, said daughter board adapted to utilize a first communication formation for allowing the gaming machine to communicate to said daughter board, (col.11, lines 17-67), see figure 2.

Acres discloses all the limitations as above except while said at least one other component remains connected to the main communication board.

However, Stufflebeam discloses devices may be added without disabling the entire computer system or rebooting the operating system. Only one PCI bridge subsystem need be disabled, the subsystem from which a preexisting device is to be removed. The memory of the computer system contains executable code, including a power-down applet and a power-up applet. (col.3, lines 1-45)

It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skills in the art at the time the invention was made to incorporate Stufflebeam's teaching into Acres's

system so as by adding and removing cards to a PCI bridge system is accomplished quickly and efficiently upon receiving an indication from a user, without having to reboot the entire system. (col.4, lines 13-17)

As per claim 2, Acres discloses the daughter board provides a communication format allowing the master gaming controller to communicate with a gaming machine device. (col.16, lines 56-6), (col.17, lines 1-15), wherein configuration number implies communication format)

As per claim 3, Acres discloses wherein the gaming machine device is a magnetic card reader, a display screen, a key pad, a network device or a display sign. (col. 19, lines 26-37)

As per claim 4, Acres discloses the daughter board provides a communication format allowing the master gaming controller to communicate with a gaming machine network. (col.16, lines 56-6), (col.17, lines 1-15), wherein configuration number implies communication format)

As per claims 29, 30, Arces discloses in a gaming machine having a master gaming controller and a main communication board allowing communication via various communications formats, a method of communicating with a gaming machine via multiple communication formats, the method comprising:

- providing a first daughter board in a first standard receptor slot of the main communication board, which first daughter board converts signals in a first communications format from the master gaming controller to signals in a

second communications format for transmission (*col.9, lines 55-67*), wherein converter 66 converts inputs to output which is transmitted to controller via conductor 46)

- providing at least one primary power connection adapted to supply power to the main communication board; (*col.10, lines 15-29, wherein main board enclosed by gaming machine board which is system board thereby power supply to machine board so as main board*)
- providing at least one secondary power connection adapted to supply power from the main communication board to said first daughter board; (*col.16,line 56-col.17, line 15*)
- replacing the first daughter board with a second daughter board in the first standard receptor slot of the main communication board, which second daughter board converts signals in a first communications format from the master gaming controller to signals in a communications format, other than the first communication format, for transmission. (*col.9, lines 55-67*), wherein converter 66 converts inputs to output which is transmitted to controller via conductor 46 (*col.10, lines 41-67*), wherein machine configuration identifies the type of machine that connected , disable device not identifies no match), (*col.16, line 56-col.17, line 15*)

Acres discloses all the limitations as above except replacing daughter board with a second daughter board in the first standard receptor slot of the main board while power is maintained through said primary power connection.

However, Stufflebeam discloses devices may be added without disabling the entire computer system or rebooting the operating system. Only one PCI bridge

subsystem need be disabled, the subsystem from which a preexisting device is to be removed. The memory of the computer system contains executable code, including a power-down applet and a power-up applet. (col.3, lines 1-45)

It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skills in the art at the time the invention was made to incorporate Stufflebeam's teaching into Acres's system so as by adding and removing cards to a PCI bridge system is accomplished quickly and efficiently upon receiving an indication from a user, without having to reboot the entire system. (col.4, lines 13-17)

As per claims 5, 37, Acres discloses the gaming machine network is a casino area network or a wide area progressive network. (col.2, lines 51-57)

As per claims 6, 35, Acres discloses the communication format is selected from the group consisting of RS-422/485, Fiber Optic, RS-232, DCS Current Loop, Link Progressive Current Loop and USB. (col.9, lines 53-54)

As per claim 7, Acres discloses the communication connection between the main communication board and the master gaming controller is configured for an RS-232 communication format or a USB communication format. (col.9, lines 45-67)

As per claim 10, Acres discloses the standard receptor is configured to supply power and a communication signal to the daughter board when the daughter board is plugged into the standard receptor slot. (col.17, lines 47-58, wherein *identification circuit activate a selected device(daughter board) by provide supply power*, (col.19, lines 37, *controller control gaming devices by current , predetermined gaming devices*)

As per claim 11, Acres discloses the power connection is configured to receive power from a substantially non-varying power source. (col.19, lines 37, *controller*

control gaming devices by current , predetermined gaming devices, fixed implies non-varying source)

As per claim 12, Acres discloses a second power connection wherein the second power connection is configured to receive power from a power source which is shut off by a switch within the gaming machine. *(col.19, lines 37, controller control gaming devices by current , predetermined gaming devices, fixed implies non-varying source)*

As per claim 13, Acres discloses the gaming machine is a traditional slot game, a video slot game, a video poker game, keno game, or a lottery game. (col.16, lines 45-52)

As per claim 32, Acres discloses the third communication format is a fiber optic communication standard. (col.3, lines 32-50)

As per claim 33, Acres discloses the first communication format is an RS-232 communication standard. (col.12, lines 36)

As per claim 34, Acres discloses the gaming machine device is selected from a group consisting of a magnetic card reader, a display screen, a key pad, a network device or a display sign. (col.12, lines 66-67)

As per claim 36, Acres discloses wherein communications are made with a gaming machine network having at least one additional gaming machine. (col.18, lines 64-67)

As per claim 38, Acres discloses wherein said second gaming device is located on said gaming machine network. (col.18, lines 64-67)

As per claims 39, 44, Acres discloses the method further comprising the step of:

Communicating a signal to a remote gaming device on said gaming machine network when money is accepted by the gaming machine, said remote gaming device being adapted to tally the amount of money accepted by a plurality of gaming machines in the gaming machine network. (col.6, lines 27-67)

As per claims 40, 45, Acres discloses wherein the gaming machine network contains a plurality of gaming machines connected as part of a daisy chain, said daisy chain comprising a communication loop. (col.19, lines 25-61)

As per claims 41, 46, Acres discloses wherein a plurality of gaming machines within said daisy chain each echoes upstream communication along the communication loop whether or not the power is on to a particular gaming machine in the daisy chain. (col.10, lines 41-67), wherein machine configuration identifies the type of machine that connected to disable device not identifies)

As per claims 42, 47, Acres discloses wherein said daisy chain comprises a master communication device that receives all communications sent on the communication loop, including its own communications. (col.19, lines 25-61)

As per claims 43, 48, Acres discloses wherein at least one of said daughter boards is configured to receive a disable communication signal using an echo jumper. (col.10, lines 41-67), wherein machine configuration identifies the type of machine that connected to disable device not identifies)

As per claim 49, Acres discloses In a gaming machine having a master gaming controller and at least one other gaming device, a method of operating said gaming machine comprising:

- Providing a main communication board adapted to facilitate communication via various communications formats, said main communication board having a plurality of standard receptor slots; (col.11, lines 17-67), figure 2
- Providing power to said main communication board via a first power connection; (col.10, lines 15-29, wherein main board enclosed by gaming machine board which is system board thereby power supply to machine board so as main board)
- Providing a first daughter board in a first standard receptor slot of said main communication board, said first daughter board adapted to convert signals sent from the master gaming controller in a first communications format to signals in a second communication format for transmission to said other gaming device or along a gaming machine network; (col.9, lines 55-67), wherein converter 66 converts inputs to output which is transmitted to controller via conductor 46)
- Providing power to said first daughter board via a second power connection; (col.16, line 56-col.17, line 15)
- Switching off power through said first power connection to said main communication board; and (col.16, line 56-col.17, line 15)
- Maintaining power to said first daughter board via said second power connection during said step of switching off power through said first power connection to said main communication board. (col.16, line 56-col.17, line 15)

As per claim 50, Acres discloses the method further including the steps of:

- Providing a second daughter board in a second standard receptor slot of the main communication board, said second daughter board adapted to convert signals sent from the master gaming controller to signals in a third communications format for transmission to said other gaming device, another gaming device, or along a gaming machine network; (*col.9, lines 55-67*), wherein converter 66 converts inputs to output which is transmitted to controller via conductor 46), (*col.16, line 56-col.17, line 15*)
- Providing power to said second daughter board via a third power connection; (*col.16, line 56-col.17, line 15*)
- Switching off power through said second power connection to said first daughter board; (*col.16, line 56-col.17, line 15*)
- Maintaining power to said second daughter board via said third power connection during said step of switching off power through said second power connection to said first daughter board; and(*col.16, line 56-col.17, line 15*)
- Replacing said first daughter board with a third daughter board in said first standard receptor slot of the main communication board. (*col.9, lines 55-67*), wherein converter 66 converts inputs to output which is transmitted to controller via conductor 46 (*col.10, lines 41-67*), wherein machine configuration identifies the type of machine that connected , disable device not identifies no match), (*col.16, line 56-col.17, line 15*)

3. Claims 8-9 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Acres et al. (US Patent 5,741,183) in view of Stufflebeam (US Patent 6,295,566)

a. As per claim 8, Arcres does not explicitly disclose the standard receptor slot is configured to accept a 15 pin connector.

It would have been an obvious matter of design choice to have receptor slot is configured to accept a 15 pin connector, since applicant has not discloses that having the receptor slot is configured to accept a 15 pin connector to solve any stated problem or is for any particular purpose and it appears having a connector to receive an expansion device not specifically a 15 pin type of connector for receiving expansion device would perform equally well with.

b. As per claim 9, Arcres discloses a connector with one or more ground and power pins (*multiple expansion devices therefore multiple pins*); however, Arcres does not explicitly discloses the ground pins the ground pins are longer than the power pins on the connector.

Examiner take Official Notice that ground pins power pins is well known in the art. It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skills in the art at the time the invention was made to incorporate the ground pin is longer than power pins into Arcres's system so as to distinguish between the two pins.

Response to Amendment

4. Applicant's amendment filed on 7/19/04 have been fully considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

a. In response to applicant's argument that Acres does not teach or suggest while said at least one other component remains connected to the main communication board. However, Stufflebeam discloses devices may be added without disabling the entire computer system or rebooting the operating system. Only one PCI bridge subsystem need be disabled, the subsystem from which a preexisting device is to be removed. The memory of the computer system contains executable code, including a power-down applet and a power-up applet. (col.3, lines 1-45)

b. In response to applicant's argument that Acres does not teach or suggest replacing daughter board with a second daughter board in the first standard receptor slot of the main board while power is maintained through said primary power connection. However, Stufflebeam discloses devices may be added without disabling the entire computer system or rebooting the operating system. Only one PCI bridge subsystem need be disabled, the subsystem from which a preexisting device is to be removed. The memory of the computer system contains executable code, including a power-down applet and a power-up applet. (col.3, lines 1-45)

Thus, the prior art teaches the invention as claimed and the amended claims do not distinguish over the prior art as applied.

Conclusion

5. Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the date of this final action.

6. *Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Kim Huynh whose telephone number is (571)272-3635 or via e-mail addressed to [kim.huynh3@uspto.gov]. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F 9:00AM- 6:00PM.*

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Mark Rinehart can be reached on (571)272-3632 or via e-mail addressed to [mark.rinehart@uspto.gov]. The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are (703)872-9306 for regular communications and After Final communications.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (571)272-2100.

Kim Huynh

September 29, 2004



MARK H. RINEHART
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
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